IB. IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 40 and 42-44 without prejudice to renewal.

1.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid comprising a hexameric nucleotide sequence of the formula 5'-Purine-Purine-[Y]-[Z]-Pyrimidine-Pyrimidine-3' or 5'-Purine-Purine-[Y]-[Z]- poly(Pyrimidine)-3';

where Y is any naturally occurring or synthetic nucleotide except cytosine and Z is any naturally occurring or synthetic nucleotide, wherein when Y is not guanosine or inosine, Z is guanosine or inosine, wherein the nucleic acid is 6 nucleotides to 45 nucleotides in length, and wherein the nucleic acid is conjugated to an autoantigen or an autoantibody,

wherein said nucleic acid inhibits production of one or more of IFNβ, IFNα, IL-12, IFN-γ, and IL-18; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 32 where Y is guanosine or inosine.

34. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 32 where Y is inosine and Z is inosine or guanosine.

35. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 32 where Y is guanosine and Z is guanosine or an unmethylated cytosine.

36. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid comprising a hexameric nucleotide sequence AAGGTT, wherein the nucleic acid is 6 nucleotides to 45 nucleotides in length, and wherein the nucleic acid is conjugated to a peptide, wherein the peptide is a targeting peptide, and wherein said nucleic acid inhibits production of one or more of IFNβ, IFNα, IL-12, IFN-γ, and IL-18; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 32, wherein said nucleic acid comprises one or more phosphate backbone modifications.

39. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 38, wherein the phosphate backbone comprises a phosphorothioate linkage.

40.-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 36, wherein the targeting peptide is a receptor ligand, an antibody, or an antibody fragment.